

## Tennessee Pollution Prevention Partnership Success Story



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### Performer Reuses Waste Ink

#### The Member

DENSO Manufacturing Tennessee, Inc. (DMTN) is part of DENSO Corporation's global network of 74 subsidiaries in 29 nations and the third largest producer of advanced technology, components, and systems for all major automakers. DMTN employs 2,400 associates in Maryville. Automotive components and systems produced at the DMTN operations include the following:

Alternators, starters, instrument clusters, and electronic components.

#### The Story – Waste Ink

DMTN's Instrument Cluster Plant operates a screen-printing department that produces speedometer, tachometer, and several other types of dials used in finished instrument clusters. Ink waste is a by-product of the printing operation and must be disposed of as a hazardous waste. In calendar year 2004, DMTN sent more than 9,000 pounds of waste ink off-site for disposal.

#### New Idea – Reuse the Waste Ink in the Process

The solution was to develop a system to save the waste ink and reuse it. In August 2004, ink scrapers were redesigned to include "wings" and an ink accumulation area was designated. A straining machine was also purchased to filter out any foreign material in the waste ink, so it can be reused.

#### The Success

Waste ink is collected, strained and reused in the screen-printing department. This activity reduced DMTN's hazardous waste ink by more than 40% or 3,600 pounds and also reduced our production costs by \$0.12 per dial.

This improvement activity was shared with two DENSO facilities in Asia and one in Mexico. This global improvement activity now allows all DENSO printing operations to reuse their waste ink.

#### Pollution Prevented

DMTN's hazardous waste ink disposal was reduced by more than 40%, or 3,600 pounds per year.

#### Future Activities

Through "kaizen" or continuous improvement activities, DMTN was able to execute our slogan, "Prevent Pollution: Reduce, Recycle, and Reuse". DENSO Corporation always looks for opportunities to prevent pollution and be a responsible corporate citizen.

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